

P19570.A02

124. The lancet device of claim 109, further comprising indicia to indicate penetration depth.

125. The lancet device of claim 109, wherein:

the lancet holder comprises a slot,

a peg on the housing engages the slot, and

the biasing element comprises a spring which contacts the peg and the lancet holder.

126. The lancet device of claim 109, wherein:

an additional biasing element biases the closure toward the housing, and

the lancet device is cocked by pulling the closure away from the housing until the button engages the lancet holder.

127. The lancet device of claim 109, wherein:

the lancet holder comprises a slot,

a peg on the housing engages the slot,

the biasing element comprises a spring which contacts the peg and the lancet holder,

an additional biasing element biases the closure toward the housing, and

the lancet device is cocked by pulling the closure away from the housing until the button engages the lancet holder.---

#### REMARKS

##### *Drawing Amendment*

Applicant submits herewith a proposed drawing amendment to Figs. 1 and 10. Approval thereof is requested.

P19570.A02

***Disclosure Statement***

Applicant also submits herewith an Information Disclosure Statement. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the information cited in the Information Disclosure Statement and to confirm such consideration by initialling in the appropriate spaces of the Form PTO-1449 accompanying the Information Disclosure Statement and returning a copy of the initialled form to Applicant.

***Preliminary Amendment***

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application.

The amendments to the claims made in this amendment have not been made to overcome the prior art, and thus, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Applicant notes that several amendments are made to the specification to provide even more explicit support for the claim language. Applicant respectfully submits that a skilled artisan would understand that the originally filed specification provides inherent support for these amendments. For the sake of brevity, Applicants generally note that the context of each of the amendments and the drawings provide support for these amendments.

Further, Applicant notes that support for reciting a needle holding member or lancet holding member having a slot for engaging a peg, which is an example of a stopper system, in combination with a travel adjustment mechanism is found in the present application at page 11, lines 15-19, emphasis added:

Regardless of how the penetration depth is adjusted, the present invention includes a stopper system to prevent axial movement of the needle holding member within the housing. Utilizing the stopper system, the needle holding member will always be retained within the channel despite its movement from the cocked, retracted position to the extended position.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application discloses that the various penetration adjustment mechanisms, i.e., travel adjustment mechanisms, of the present invention may be used with the various stopper systems of the present application. For instance, the embodiment of the present application shown in Figs. 1-7 includes both a guide collar 28 and a peg 28', (see present application at page 16, lines 15-24). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application provides basis for combining the travel adjustment mechanism of Fig. 14 which includes a guide collar 28, with the stopper system of Fig. 7 or 8, which includes a peg 28' or 28", respectively. In this regard, Applicant notes that Fig. 14 is a partial view of the lancet device of the present application which only shows a portion of the lancet holding member.

Support for reciting that the lancet holding member the lancet holding member comprises an engagement segment which engages the trigger, and that the engagement segment is biased outward so that the engagement segment engages the housing when the lancet device is cocked, is found in the present application at, e.g., page 17, line 12 to page 18, line 7.

Regarding the recitation in claim 20 of at least one stop contained within the housing, Applicant notes that the stop may be a part of the housing, (see e.g., Fig. 18), or may be considered to be separate from the housing, e.g., as part of an end cap, (see e.g., Figs. 14-17).

P19570.A02

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steven SCHRAGA

*Steven J. Helmer*

*Reg. No. 40,475*

Neil F. Greenblum  
Reg. No. 28,394

October 20, 2000  
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1941 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191